

## U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army

contact: paoci@eur.army.mil  
phone: 49-6221-57-5815 / DSN 370-5815  
fax: 49-6221-57-6376 / DSN 370-6376



RELEASE #2007-10-11-06

Oct. 11, 2007

### SIGNAL SOLDIERS HEAD FOR SECOND DEPLOYMENT IN SOUTHWEST ASIA

**By Sgt. Michael Taylor**  
5<sup>th</sup> Signal Command Public Affairs Office

**MANNHEIM, Germany --** The 5th Signal Command's 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion conducted its last formation before shipping out to Southwest Asia for 15 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, at the Sullivan Barracks gymnasium here Oct. 7.

Hundreds of Soldiers, friends and family members were in attendance to show their support to the battalion's Soldiers as they loaded up on buses to deploy.

Advance groups of the unit are already deployed, preparing for the arrival of their remaining 400-plus comrades.

"You are going to battle for the second time in four years in support of the Global War on Terror and in support of freedom around the world," said Brig. Gen. Susan S. Lawrence, the commander of 5th Signal Command.

"Whether from the home front or the foxhole, every person here today should be proud to serve this organization, proud of their sacrifice, and proud of their dedication to duty," added Lawrence.

The 44th ESB will be deploying as a newly reorganized expeditionary signal battalion supporting theater elements operating in both corps and division areas.



**SGT MICHAEL TAYLOR**

Spc. Tyler V. Tevid, a cable installer with 5th Signal Command's 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, feeds his infant son, Tyler J., for the last time before the specialist departed for a 15-month deployment in Iraq, at the Sullivan Barracks gym in Mannheim, Germany Oct. 7.

Unit officials say the battalion has been training for this deployment since returning from Afghanistan in 2005. The 44th transitioned from the intra-theater signal battalion configuration, in which they deployed previously, to the new ESB.

The change required a reorganization of personnel, logistics and training, as well as fielding and certifying new equipment at the same time it trained its Soldiers in required warrior tasks. The 44th also conducted a convoy live-fire exercise, completed mission rehearsal exercises, and fielded Joint Network Node technology.

“Many of you have combat experience and have seen first-hand that the digital battlefield is changing rapidly,” said Lawrence. “You must build on this experience and complete the mission and come home safe.”

In support of the home front, the 44th ESB established a rear detachment, made Family member "battle books" and established lines through which Soldiers can communicate easier with family members.

“Every husband, wife, son and daughter plays a critical role in ensuring we as one team meet mission success,” said Lawrence. “Let me put it to you this way; you Family members have the most critical mission in the eyes of our Soldiers.”

“Though there will be many challenges over the next 15 months, none will be insurmountable because you are prepared, dedicated and an outstanding signal force.”



**[www.hqusareur.army.mil](http://www.hqusareur.army.mil)**